Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, JA

SUBJECT: TAXATION OF FOREIGN BANKS IN JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 0306

1. U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS IN JUNE,1976 REVEALED THAT JAPANESE GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO PRESS FOR USE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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CENTRAL BANK DISCOUNT RATES IN DETERMINING INTEREST EXPENSE OF FOREIGN SOURCE FUNDS. JAPANESE DID NOT EXPLAIN WHAT THEIR POSITION ON COSTING FOREIGN SOURCE FUNDS WOULD BE.

2. SEC 861 IRS CODE HAS BEEN ADOPTED INTO LAW AND IS NOW BEING APPLIED TO JAPANESE BANKS IN U.S. WITH RESPECT TO COST OF FOREIGN FUNDS, IT HOLDS THAT INTEREST EXPENSE DEDUCTION AGAINST FOREIGN INCOME SHALL BE ON A PRO RATA BASIS WITH RESPECT TO EITHER INCOME OR ASSETS. THUS, IF A

JAPANESE BANK HAD DOMESTIC INCOME (OR ASSETS) OF 400 AND U.S. OPERATION INCOME (OR ASSETS) OF 100, 20 OF THE BANK'S TOTAL INTEREST EXPENSE WOULD BE DEDUCTABLE FROM U.S. INCOME (100) FOR TAX PURPOSES.

THE JAPANESE OPPOSE THIS METHOD AND LOBBIED FOR "SEPARATE ENTITY" TREATMENT, WHICH PROVIDES THAT ACTUAL INTEREST EXPENSE OF THEIR U.S. FUNDS WOULD BE USED FOR

PURPOSES OF TAX CALCULATIONS. THE INCOME TAX TREATY OF 1971 MAY ACCOMMODATE EITHER APPROACH, BECAUSE IT IS RATHER UNCLEAR ON THE SUBJECT. FURTHERMORE, THE TREATY, WHERE IT APPLIES, TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER THE IRS CODE. CONSEQUENTLY, MORE DISCUSSION WITH THE JAPANESE ON SEPARATE ENTITY TREATMENT IS EXPECTED. VANCE

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